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009189<sup>3</sup>**Department of Energy**

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FEB - 6 1995

Those on Attached List:

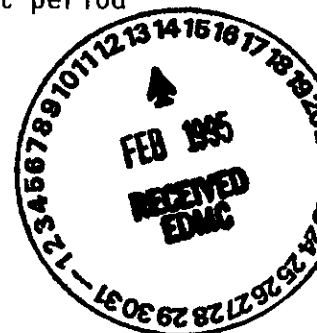
**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS ON DRAFT IDENTIFICATION OF CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN  
REPORT**

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), has negotiated an agreement with the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform a comprehensive impact assessment of current and residual Hanford-derived contaminants to the Columbia River for remedial decisions at the Hanford Site. Associated current human health and environmental impacts will be assessed. This process will utilize an ecosystem approach for guiding remedial decisions. 100-Area, 200-Area, and 300-Area operable units will continue to assess contaminant sources and remediation. The Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) will address all Columbia River contaminants, risk assessments, and remediation. If unacceptable levels of human health or environmental risk are found, appropriate remedial actions will be initiated consistent with the National Contingency Plan and the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (Tri-Party Agreement) through the Hanford Past Practice Strategy. Remedial decisions resulting from the CRCIA will consider impacts to the environment and natural resources from alternative remedial options as part of the remedial decision process.

The initial CRCIA effort was the development of a "compendium" of existing data on Columbia River contamination (a bibliography of data sources has been developed in support of this effort).

The next step is to define the "contaminants of concern" for this study. A contaminants of concern report has been produced which documents an initial review, from a risk perspective, of historical data concerning current or potential contamination in the Columbia River. Sampling data were examined for over 600 chemical and radioactive contaminants. A screening analysis was performed to identify those substances present in such quantities that they may pose a meaningful human or ecological risk. The substances identified will require a more detailed analysis to assess their impact on humans or the river ecosystem.

The next document to be produced will be an identification of the "species of concern" for this study. It is the intention of RL and PNL to solicit early input, from those interested, concurrently with the review and comment period of the enclosed document.



Addressees

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RL is pleased to provide you a copy of the draft subject document for your review. This document has not undergone review by RL, or the regulatory agencies (Ecology and EPA); therefore, there is ample opportunity to provide meaningful input prior to its finalization. Please provide comments to Mr. Randy Brich at this address by March 10, 1995. Mr. Brich may be reached at (509) 376-9031. RL and its contractor for this study, Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL), are pleased to meet with those interested; please let Mr. Brich know if you desire to do so.

Sincerely,



Julie K. Erickson, Director  
River Sites Restoration Division

RSD:RFB

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

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